

64 Assigned to Nixon, Sen. Montoya Charges

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Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.) said yesterday that there may be as many as 64 federal employees detailed to the Nixon San Clemente complex, with total salaries running at a rate of about \$841,800 a year.

Aides to Montoya said the new figures, about double the highest previous estimates, were developed on the basis of new information obtained from the White House. Earlier estimates had put the employees at about two dozen, with salaries totaling up to \$450,000 on an annual basis.

The White House has told Montoya that at least some of the 64 employees and \$841,800 aren't really for Mr. Nixon but for related installations and therefore shouldn't be considered part of the costs for the Nixon transition. But it apparently hasn't convinced the senator.

Montoya heads a Senate Appropriations subcommittee that has recommended deep cuts in Nixon transition funds requested by President Ford. The House has already passed its deeply cut version.

Montoya's new figures represent his best estimates to date on how many persons, while remaining on the payrolls of various federal agencies, have been assigned by Mr. Ford to work for Mr. Nixon during the six-month

"transition" from his presidency.

Montoya emphasized that the \$841,800 is in addition to \$622,000 a year in Secret Service protection costs for Mr. Nixon at the San Clemente complex, and another \$500,000 on an annual basis for Secret Service and other costs at the Key Biscayne, Fla., estate.

Montoya gave this breakdown of the 64 personnel:

- Eleven persons on the White House payroll, six on the Defense Department payroll and one on the General Services Administration payroll directly involved with work in helping Mr. Nixon's transition to non-presidential status. Total salaries: about \$375,800 a year.

- One female mail clerk, \$12,000 a year, Defense Department.

- Fourteen personnel in White House communications network, \$136,880.

- Two Navy mess stewards, who are leaving, \$22,560 a year.

- Twelve Coast Guardsmen, \$5,650 a year.

- Ten GSA employees, physically located at the National Archives here, handling Nixon papers, \$122,745.

- Seven GSA employees handling custodial work at San Clemente, \$76,800.

Montoya aides said the White House contends the 14 communications network people, the Coast Guardsmen and

some of the GSA employees shouldn't be attributed to the Nixon transition.

The full House and the Senate appropriations committees have both voted to put a lid of \$220,000 on the payments to federal employees detailed to Mr. Nixon during the six-month transition period from last Aug. 9 to next Feb. 9. In addition, they have voted to pay Mr. Nixon \$100,000 for other transition costs he may incur during that period and \$100,000 through June 30, 1975 under a separate law providing pensions and staff aid to former presidents.